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Assistant Director, Research and Reports

9 February 1955

THRU : Chief, Economic Research Area
Acting Chief, Materials Division

25X1A5a1 Employment of [REDACTED] to engage on a Research Project Relating to Acreage, Production, and Utilization of Cotton in Communist China.

25X1A5a1 1. It is recommended that ORR, at its earliest convenience, employ [REDACTED] to engage in an external research project relating to the acreage, production, and utilization of cotton in Communist China.

2. There is a wide divergence between the current estimates made by the American Consulate General in Hong Kong of the cotton acreage and production and the Communist claims. Considerable reservations exist both in M/AC and D/A/P in regard to both series of data.

3. It is, therefore, recommended that [REDACTED] project 25X1A5a1 be directed toward the derivation of definitive estimates of cotton acreage and production for the period 1948-1954. Necessary by-product research will involve estimates of spindle numbers, efficiency of spindle use, yarn production, handicraft or home consumption of cotton and production of cotton cloth.

25X1A9a 4. This research is essential to ORR contributions to Project 10.4Q4 for the forthcoming NIE on the "Power Potential of Communist China Through 1958" as indicated in Terms of Reference VII of [REDACTED] memorandum dated 27 January 1955: "Study of textile output and raw cotton production to reconcile conflicting estimates now being carried for agricultural production of cotton and industrial production of cotton textiles."

5. It is desirable that this work be done in Hong Kong. If that is not possible and if [REDACTED] is agreeable to working on this problem in Washington, he should be employed at the earliest possible date to enable him to make as complete a report as is feasible by 1 July 1955.

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